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DIRECTORATE OF
INTELLIGENCE

Central Intelligence Bulletin

Secret

Nº 042
21 July 1971

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Approved For Release 2003/05/19 : CIA-RDP79T00975A019600010001-3

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No. 0173/71
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COMMUNIST CHINA - VIETNAM: Peking has used the occasion of the 17th anniversary of the Geneva accords to reaffirm its support for Hanoi's latest peace proposal.

In an authoritative editorial yesterday, the Chinese praised the Vietnamese Communists' seven points as the "correct course" and criticized the US for making no positive response. In language fairly obviously calculated to sound good in Hanoi, the editorial repeated Peking's standard public line that a settlement of the Indochina question must accord with the desires of the Indochinese peoples. The editorial claimed that the Geneva agreements were "a great achievement" for the Vietnamese, which was only later undermined by US actions.

The Chinese statement marks the first time Peking has commemorated the Geneva anniversary in several years and is its most complimentary public pronouncement on the agreements since the start of the Paris peace negotiations in 1968. Whether this unusual attention was designed as more than an affirmation of Peking's continuing support for Hanoi's approach to negotiations is not evident from the text of the editorial. The editorial could be related to recent suggestions that China is willing to participate in an international conference on Indochina.

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SUDAN: The country remains calm as the junta consolidates its control.

A seven-man Revolutionary Command Council (RCC), four of whose members have been affiliated with the Sudanese Communist Party in the past, has been appointed as the new government. Unconfirmed reports in the capital characterize these four men as sympathetic to the orthodox wing of the Communist Party. The chairman of the RCC, Lieutenant Colonel Babakr al-Nur Uthman, his deputy who led the take-over, Major Hashim al-Atta, and Major Faruq Hamdallah had been members of the previous government until November 1970 when they were dismissed ostensibly for leaking secrets to the Communists.

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[redacted] the coup's participants had been plotting against ex-president Numayri for a number of months. A coup had been planned for early June but was postponed when some of the plotters were arrested. [redacted]

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[redacted] the plotters were opposed to Numayri's policies but are not necessarily agreed on the actions to take now. Like the earlier governments, the new one may soon fall to internal bickering.

The coup leaders have taken a number of steps to gain support. In four decisions announced early yesterday, the RCC abolished all decrees of the former regime and dissolved a number of organizations that had supported Numayri. Also rescinded was the previous government's ban on four organizations that had formed the power base of the Sudanese Communist Party: the Federation of Labor Trade Unions, the Students Federation, the Youth League, and the Women's League. The RCC also announced the release of political prisoners including approximately 47 Communist Party members who had been jailed by Numayri. All newspapers and magazines have been suspended, except for the army's newspaper. [redacted]

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COMMUNIST CHINA - GUINEA: China will provide several small patrol vessels and an undetermined amount of arms and ammunition to Guinea under the terms of a new military aid agreement signed in Peking in early July [redacted]

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[redacted] The agreement.

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[redacted] follows the visit of a Chinese military delegation to Guinea and Mali. [redacted]

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With its limited military assistance, Peking will not supplant the USSR as Guinea's main source of sophisticated military equipment. China is apparently seeking to enhance its influence by appearing to help allay President Touré's apprehension over opposition at home and his fears of invasion from abroad. Touré, who apparently was dissatisfied with the performance of his army in repelling the Portuguese-backed commando raid last November, may regard Chinese help as an inexpensive way to improve his defense forces, as well as to balance somewhat his reliance on Soviet assistance. [redacted]

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MALI: Bamako is playing one country off against another in an effort to maintain a balance between East and West in its quest for economic assistance.

An economic aid agreement reached with the Chinese in late May is scheduled to be signed within the next few days. Although the value of the agreement is not known, several light industrial projects and a mineral survey are included. A Chinese team is expected to arrive shortly in Mali for a feasibility study of the construction of the Manantali Dam, estimated to cost over \$100 million.

Peking's willingness to aid Mali has prompted Paris, Mali's main financial backer, to offer more financial assistance. France has agreed to provide a budget subsidy of some \$5 million and probably will also furnish some developmental assistance for Mali's three-year plan. Paris recently issued visas to thirty French technicians who are to study the Manantali Dam project within the next few weeks.

Mali probably also looks for additional Soviet assistance to be offered during a visit to Moscow later this month by President Traore and Foreign Minister Sissoko.

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NOTE

EAST PAKISTAN: The transportation system is more disorganized now than at any time since April, according to the top Pakistani civilian official in Dacca. Sabotage operations by Bengali guerrillas apparently have produced major dislocations, although the official claims that the Indians are mostly to blame. [redacted] the guerrillas will keep up their attacks on the transport and communications network despite the adverse impact on the grave food situation facing the Bengali population. Islamabad's military chiefs in the East are still not taking the steps needed to improve the food transport situation, and the army is still using for its own purposes some of the 50 US ships provided for cyclone relief in late 1970.

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